

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating or preventing fibrosis, the method comprising administering to a subject in need an effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF or fragments thereof.

2. A method of treating or preventing a renal disorder associated with overproduction of extracellular matrix, the method comprising administering to a subject in need an effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF or fragments thereof.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is an antibody which specifically binds to CTGF or fragments thereof.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence which binds with a sequence encoding CTGF or fragments thereof.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a small molecule.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a compound that blocks binding interactions involved in the signal transduction pathway of CTGF, thereby modulating or inhibiting CTGF activity.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a molecule that interferes with or blocks post-translational modification of CTGF.

5 8. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a molecule that blocks the activation
of a precursor of CTGF.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the renal disorder is diabetes.

10 10. The method of claim 2, wherein the renal disorder is hypertension.

11. The method of claim 2, wherein the extracellular matrix is comprised of collagen.

12. A method of treating or preventing diabetes, the method comprising administering
15 to a subject in need a therapeutically effective amount of insulin and a therapeutically effective
amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits expression and activity of CTGF or
fragments thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an agent that
20 modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF.

25 14. A method for diagnosing a renal disorder characterized by the overproduction of
extracellular matrix, or identifying a predisposition or susceptibility to a renal disorder
characterized by the overproduction of extracellular matrix, in a subject, the method comprising:
(a) obtaining a sample from the subject
(b) detecting the level of CTGF in the sample;
(c) comparing the level of CTGF in the sample to a standard level of CTGF.

30 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the renal disorder is diabetes.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the sample from the subject is a urine sample.

5 *[Signature]* 17. A diagnostic kit for use in diagnosing a renal disorder renal disorder characterized by the overproduction of extracellular matrix, or identifying a predisposition or susceptibility to a renal disorder characterized by the overproduction of extracellular matrix comprising:

(a) a means for detecting the level of CTGF in a sample; and

(b) ~~a means for measuring the level of CTGF in the sample.~~

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18. The diagnostic kit of claim 17, wherein the sample is a urine sample.

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